

*Claims*

1.(Currently Amended) A playback apparatus, comprising:

a data source (1) that provides a data stream signal (d0);

a device (2) that is responsive to said data stream signal and forms a first data stream (d1) in a first data format (F1), wherein said first data stream (d1) includes a data field (D1) in a second data format (F2);

a code converter (3) that is responsive to said first data stream (d1), and converts selected parts of said first data stream (d1) in the second data format (F2) to a second data stream (d2) having data encoded in a third data format (F3); and

an output decoder (5) for selectively forming playback signals from the second data stream and a time delayed version of said first data stream (d2).

2.(Currently Amended) The playback apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a buffer (7) responsive to said first data stream (d1) and ~~located electrically parallel to said code converter (3)~~, that provides to said output decoder (5) a third data stream indicative of said time delayed version of said first data stream (d3) whose data format corresponds to said third data format (F3).

32.(Currently Amended) The playback apparatus of claim 2, wherein said second and third data streams (d2, d3) are selectively applied to said output decoder (5) by a control unit (4).

43.(Currently Amended) The playback apparatus of claim 3, wherein said code converter (3) provides a detection signal (dz) to said control unit (4) indicative of the presence of said first data format (F1) and/or said second data format (F2), and said control unit (4) determines whether to

provide said second data stream (~~d2~~) or said third data stream (~~d3~~) to said output decoder (~~5~~) in response thereto.

54.(Currently Amended) The playback apparatus of claim 4, wherein said data source (~~1~~) comprises a storage device (~~1.6~~) that can be exchangeable/removable from said playback apparatus.

65.(Currently Amended) The playback apparatus of claim 5, wherein said storage device (~~1.6~~) is at least partially mechanically driven.

76.(Currently Amended) The playback apparatus of claim 6, wherein said control unit (~~4~~) changes the read rate of said storage device (~~1.6~~) in response to the detection signal (~~dz~~).

87.(Currently Amended) The playback apparatus of claim 7, wherein the read rate of said storage device (~~1.6~~) is dependent upon speed of a motor that is regulated at a predetermined value by said control unit (~~4~~) via a motor controller (~~1.5~~).

98.(Currently Amended) The playback apparatus of claim 5, wherein said device (~~2~~) comprises means for detecting an error in said input data stream (~~d0~~) and for providing a first error signal (~~f1~~) indicative thereof, said code converter (~~3~~) comprises means for detecting an error in said first and second data streams (~~d1, d2~~) and generating an second error signal (~~f2~~) indicative thereof, wherein said first and second errors signal (~~f1, f2~~) are provided to said output decoder (~~5~~).

109.(Currently Amended) The playback apparatus of claim 2, wherein said buffer (7) provides temporal compensation between said second and third data streams (~~d2, d3~~).

1110.(Currently Amended) The playback apparatus of claim 5, wherein said storage device (~~1.6~~) contains data (~~de~~) assigned to a first data format (~~F1~~), and that at least one data field (~~D1~~) of successive data packets (~~P1.0, P1.1, P1.2~~) of the first data format (~~F1~~) contains data packets (~~P2.0, P2.1, P2.2~~) of the second data format (~~F2~~), whose contents correspond essentially to the information to be reproduced.

1211.(Currently Amended) The playback apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:  
a programming device (8) that first converts a data (~~dx~~) of the information to be stored to the second data format (~~F2~~) and provides a resulting data sequence (~~ds~~) that is then converted to the first data format (~~F1~~) to provide a data sequence (~~dw~~) that is written to said storage device (~~1.6~~) to form stored data (~~de~~) resident on said storage device.

1312.(Currently Amended) The playback apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a manually controlled switch, wherein said second and third data streams (~~d2, d3~~) are selectively applied to said output decoder (~~5~~) by said manually controlled switch.

1413.(Currently Amended) A playback apparatus that is responsive to a data stream signal provided by a data source, said playback apparatus comprising:

means responsive to said data stream signal, for forming a first data stream ~~(d1)~~ in a first data format ~~(F1)~~, wherein said ~~he~~ first data stream ~~(d1)~~ includes a data field ~~(D1)~~ in a second data format ~~(F2)~~;

a code converter that is responsive to said first data stream ~~(d1)~~, and converts selected parts of said first data stream ~~(d1)~~ in the second data format ~~(F2)~~ to a second data stream ~~(d2)~~ having data encoded in a third data format ~~(F3)~~; and

an output decoder ~~(5)~~ for selectively forming playback signals from said second data stream and a time delayed version of said first data signal ~~(d2)~~.

1514.(Currently Amended) An audio playback apparatus that provides an audio playback signal to an audio transducer, said audio playback apparatus comprising:

~~a data storage device that provides an encoded data stream signal (d0);~~

a device ~~(2)~~ that is responsive to said ~~an~~ encoded data stream signal and forms a first data stream ~~(d1)~~ in a first data format ~~(F1)~~, wherein said first data stream ~~(d1)~~ includes a data field ~~(D1)~~ in a second data format ~~(F2)~~;

a code converter ~~(3)~~ that is responsive to said first data stream ~~(d1)~~, and converts selected parts of said first data stream ~~(d1)~~ in the second data format ~~(F2)~~ to a second data stream ~~(d2)~~ having data encoded in a third data format ~~(F3)~~;

a buffer ~~(7)~~ responsive to said first data stream ~~(d1)~~ and located electrically parallel to said code converter ~~(3)~~, that provides to said output decoder ~~(5)~~ a third data stream ~~(d3)~~ whose data format corresponds to said third data format ~~(F3)~~;

an output decoder ~~(5)~~ for generating the audio playback signals; and

means for selectively applying one of said second data stream (~~d2~~) and said third data stream (~~d3~~) to said output decoder (~~5~~) to form the audio playback signals that are output to the audio transducer.

16.(New) The playback apparatus of claim 1, comprising means responsive to said first data stream for providing said time delayed version of said first data stream.

17.(New) The playback apparatus of claim 1, wherein said code converter comprises a decoder that decompresses the selected parts of said first data stream in the second data format to provide said second data stream.

18.(New) A playback apparatus, comprising:

a device that is responsive to a data stream signal and forms a first data stream in a first data format, wherein said first data stream includes a data field in a second data format;

an expander that is responsive to said first data stream, and based upon a compression factor in an auxiliary data field of the first data stream said expander expands said data field of said first data stream in the second data format to a second data stream having data encoded in a third data format; and

an output decoder for selectively forming playback signals from the second data stream and said first data stream which are selectively decoded by said output decoder under the control of a control unit.

19.(New) The playback apparatus of claim 18, wherein said expander comprises means for decompressing MPEG encoded audio.

20.(New) The playback apparatus of claim 1, wherein said code converter comprises means for decompressing MPEG encoded audio.

21.(New) A playback apparatus, comprising:

a code converter that receives a first data stream in a first data format, wherein said first data stream includes (i) a data field in a second data format, (ii) a sync field and (iii) an auxillary data field, wherein said code converter converts said data field to a second data stream having data in a third data format based upon information located in the auxillary data field; and

an output decoder for selectively forming playback signals from said second data stream and said first data stream.

22.(New) The playback apparatus of claim 21, wherein said converter converts said data field to said second data stream based upon compression information located in the auxillary data field.

23.(New) The playback apparatus of claim 22, said compression information is indicative of an MPEG audio compression factor.

24.(New) The playback apparatus of claim 21, where said playback signals include audio signals.